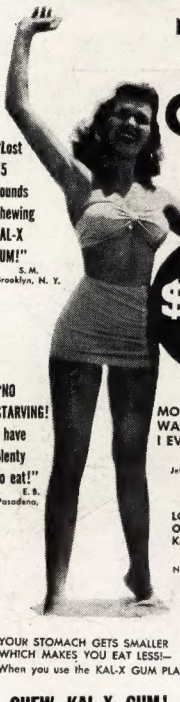
ATLAS
SECRET STORY
APR.
SECRET STORY
10¢
NO. 6
"ENGAGED!"
ROMANCES
ON SALE MONTHLY

DON'T BE FAT!



"Lost 45 pounds Chewing KAL-X GUM!" S. M. Brooklyn, N. Y.

"NO STARVING! I have plenty to eat!" E. B. Pasadena,

NOW! REALLY GET SLIM AS THOUSANDS DO!

CHEW KAL-X

AND LOSE FAT WITH TESTED PLAN!

(Patent Pending)

$1 ONLY PLUS C.O.D. OR SEND $1 AND SAVE POSTAGE

MOST PLEASANT WAY TO REDUCE I EVER TRIED! V. S. St. Louis, Mo

LOST 20 POUNDS ON FIRST BOX OF KAL-X GUM E. W. New Britain, Conn.

Lost 60 Pounds since chewing KAL-X GUM! V. S. St. Louis, Mo

IT REALLY DID THE JOB! Was almost ready to give up! A. G. Portland, Oregon

Lost 23 Pounds! G. M. Belding, Mich.

Lost 34 Pounds! Feel wonderful! A. E. Auburn, Ind.

LOST 30 POUNDS! J. H. Weippe, Idaho

Your own experience may, of course, vary.

MIRACLE! — All my friends think a miracle happened to me! W. W. Chicago, Ill.

MANY RELATIVES & FRIENDS USED KAL-X GUM AND HAVE WONDERFUL FIGURES! A. W. Junction City, Kansas

"MY DOCTOR SAYS KAL-X IS THE BEST!" D. D. Gretna, La.

"Lost 18 lbs. on the first box of KAL-X GUM!" G. B. Vidor, Texas

1. YOUR STOMACH GETS SMALLER WHICH MAKES YOU EAT LESS!— When you use the KAL-X GUM PLAN!

CHEW KAL-X GUM!

2. YOUR FIGURE THEN GETS SLIMMER! When you use the KAL-X GUM PLAN!

CHEW KAL-X GUM!

3. NO WRING EXERCISES! NO STARVATION DIET! NO HARMFUL DRUGS!— When you reduce the KAL-X way!

LOST 28 POUNDS ON FIRST BOX OF KAL-X GUM! C. K. Goodells, Mich.

I LOST FAT! . . . Now I want my husband to lose fat! B. C. Springfield, Ill.

100% GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED

RUSH THIS MAIL ORDER NOW!

NOW!—READ HOW THOUSANDS ARE LOSING FAT WHILE ENJOYING CHEWING GENUINE KAL-X GUM!

Read What Thousands Say!

LOST 30 POUNDS ON FIRST BOX OF KAL-X GUM C. W. Y. Lima, Ohio

DOCTORS AGREE: That fat people tend to die younger and become easy victims of many diseases! Your doctor's recommendation and approval is invited. If your excess fat is not due to glandular or organic causes—Don't Wait! Mail Coupon Below Today! Don't miss dating and good times because you're FAT! Try KAL-X Tested Plan.

Satisfaction or Money Back

KAL-X IS SAFE

THIS NEW WAY OF LOSING WEIGHT IS SWELL! I. C. Mt. Carmel, Pa.

MAIL THIS COUPON REALLY BEGIN TO LOSE FAT!

MAIL THIS COUPON

KAL-X GUM CO., Dept. 10NN 93 Montgomery St., Jersey City 2, N. J.

I WANT TO GET SLIM ALSO!

- ☐ Enclosed is $1.00. Rush a 14 day box of KAL-X GUM to me.
- ☐ Enclosed is $2.00. Rush a 28 day box of KAL-X GUM to me.
- ☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman when it comes $1.00 plus C.O.D. charges and postage for a 14 day box of KAL-X GUM.

MY NAME_____

MY ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____

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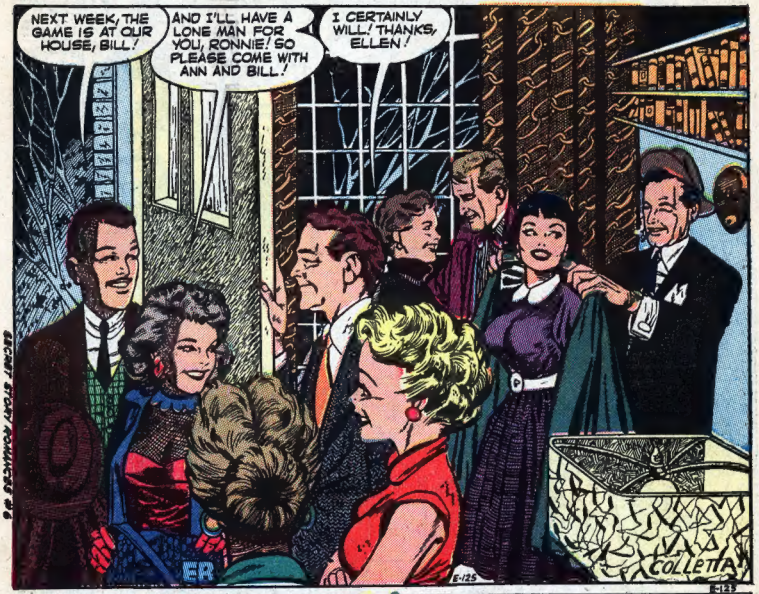
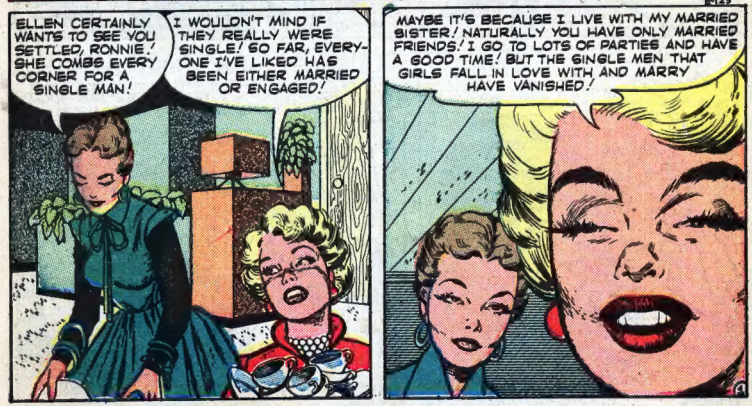
ENGAGED!


NEXT WEEK, THE GAME IS AT OUR HOUSE, BILL!
AND I'LL HAVE A LONE MAN FOR YOU, RONNIE! SO PLEASE COME WITH ANN AND BILL!
I CERTAINLY WILL! THANKS, ELLEN!
E-125
COLLETTA


ELLEN CERTAINLY WANTS TO SEE YOU SETTLED, RONNIE! SHE COMBS EVERY CORNER FOR A SINGLE MAN!
I WOULDN'T MIND IF THEY REALLY WERE SINGLE! SO FAR, EVERY-ONE I'VE LIKED HAS BEEN EITHER MARRIED OR ENGAGED!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I LIVE WITH MY MARRIED SISTER! NATURALLY YOU HAVE ONLY MARRIED FRIENDS! I GO TO LOTS OF PARTIES AND HAVE A GOOD TIME! BUT THE SINGLE MEN THAT GIRLS FALL IN LOVE WITH AND MARRY HAVE VANISHED!

I WENT TO ELLEN'S HOUSE WITH BILL AND ANN! AS FOR ELLEN'S PROMISE OF A LONE MAN, I'D FORGOTTEN IT! ANYWAY I DIDN'T SEE AN UNFAMILIAR FACE!

BILL, YOU LUCKY STIFF! TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN! HOW DO YOU RATE BOTH OF THEM?

HELLO, EVERYBODY!

BUT ELLEN HAD COME THROUGH AFTER ALL! A LONE MAN! NO WIFE AND NO VISIBLE GIRL FRIEND!

THIS IS RONNIE SANDS ... DR. ALLEN MAYO!

HELLO, RONNIE!

HELLO ALLEN!

GOSH, RONNIE, I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GAME! I DON'T WORK THIS HARD PULLING MOLARS!

WELL, I'M GLAD YOU STRAIGHTENED ME OUT! I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU ABOUT A PAIN IN MY SHOULDER!

HE'S NICE! WHAT'S THE INSIDE STORY?

ALLEN MAYO IS ENGAGED TO CYNTHIA HALL WHO IS TRAVELING IN EUROPE THIS SPRING WITH HER PARENTS!

TELL ME, AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT WORRIED ABOUT CYNTHIA ABROAD WITH ALL THOSE EARLS AND DUKES TRYING TO MAKE AN AMERICAN ALLIANCE?

NOPE! CYNTHIA WRITES PRETTY OFTEN AND TELLS ME EVERYTHING SHE DOES! AND I TRUST HER!

I ENVY CYNTHIA... ALL HER DENTIST BILLS FOR FREE!

NOT ONLY THAT... MY DENTAL TOOLS CAN POLISH SILVER!

WHEN I GOT BACK TO MY ROOM LATER, I COULDN'T GET ALLEN OUT OF MY MIND! I'D BEEN LET DOWN BEFORE WHEN I FOUND A MAN I LIKED! BUT THIS TIME IT SEEMED MUCH WORSE! ALLEN WAS MUCH NICER THAN ANY OTHER MAN I'D EVER MET!

THE NEXT TIME I SAW ALLEN, IT WAS BY CHANCE! I LEFT THE OFFICE FOR LUNCH AS HE WAS PASSING THE BUILDING...

HELLO, RONNIE! HOW ABOUT A LITTLE BALLAST TO STEER YOU TO LUNCH ON THIS WINDY DAY!

ALLEN! YOU'VE COME TO MY RESCUE!

I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'VE ENJOYED A LUNCH MORE! YOU'RE WONDERFUL COMPANY, RONNIE!

FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NO PLACE, DR. MAYO! YOU STILL HAVE TO PAY MY CHECK!

WHEN I FOUND OUT ALLEN WAS GOING TO BE AT THE NEXT PARTY, I BOUGHT A NEW OUTFIT! I TOLD MYSELF IT WAS FOOLISH THAT ALLEN WAS CYNTHIA MAN, BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!

WOW! YOU'RE REALLY GIVING US OLD MARRIED MEN A TREAT TONIGHT, RONNIE!

A NEW OUTFIT?

UH, UH! I'VE GOT TO SHOW SOME RESULTS FOR THE SLAVING I DO, DAY AFTER DAY AT WORK!

YOU KNOW, I NEVER REALLY ENJOYED THESE PARTIES VERY MUCH BEFORE... BUT NOW, I LOOK FORWARD TO THEM!

OH, ALLEN... IF I COULD ONLY TELL YOU HOW I FEEL IN YOUR ARMS!

LATER, ALLEN DROVE ME HOME...

THANK YOU FOR A LOVELY EVENING, RONNIE!

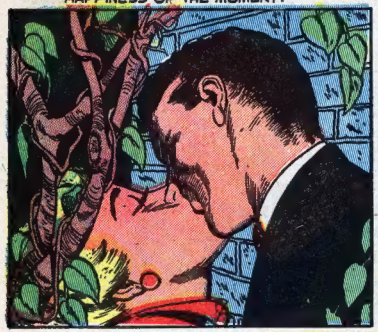
I ENJOYED IT, TOO!

THEN HE KISSED ME... AND HIS LIPS FELT WARM AND TENDER ON MINE...

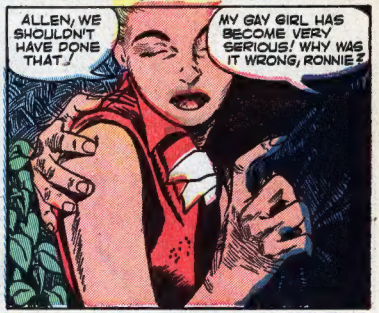
DO YOU REALIZE THE BLACKMAIL I COULD ENGAGE IN AFTER CYNTHIA GETS BACK?

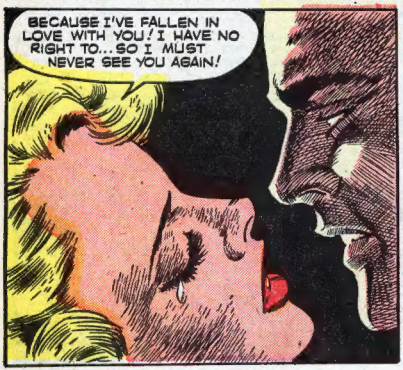
I HAVE TO TAKE MY CHANCES, I GUESS!

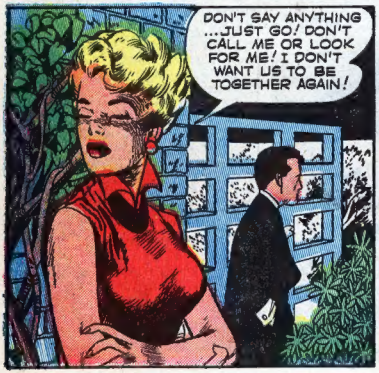
AT THE DOOR HE SWEPT ME INTO HIS ARMS AGAIN! I COULD THINK OF NOTHING BUT THE HAPPINESS OF THE MOMENT!



BUT A MOMENT LATER I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED! I WAS A FOOL AND I WAS LETTING ALLEN MAKE A FOOL OF HIMSELF! I HAD TO END IT ALL, THEN AND THERE...







I WATCHED HIM DRIVE AWAY INTO THE NIGHT! I SAID A SILENT GOOD-BYE, BUT MY HEART KEPT REPEATING, "ALLEN, ALLEN, COME BACK!"

I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT THROUGH THE NEXT DAY AT THE OFFICE! I KNEW IT WAS ALLEN ON THE PHONE AS I CAME IN THE DOOR AT HOME AND MOTIONED ANN TO SAY I WASN'T IN...

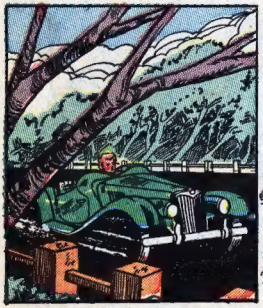
I HADN'T SEEN ALLEN FOR A WEEK! THE EMPTINESS WAS STILL THERE, BUT EACH DAY I TRIED HARDER TO FORGET HIM. ONE MORNING AT BREAKFAST I SAW A NEWS ITEM THAT STUNNED ME!

WHAT'S WRONG, RONNIE?
CYNTHIA HALL IS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED TO A YOUNG DIPLOMAT IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY! OH, ANN, WHAT WILL ALLEN DO?

MY JOY AT BEING ABLE TO CALL ALLEN WAS DIMMED BY THE FEAR THAT HE WOULD BE TOO UPSET TO SPEAK TO ANYONE!

NO, MISS SANDS... DR. MAYO CALLED A FEW MINUTES AGO TO CANCEL ALL HIS APPOINTMENTS FOR THE DAY! HE WON'T BE IN! NO, HE ISN'T AT HOME EITHER!
201
DEN

I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON MY WORK AT ALL, I HAD TO REACH ALLEN! WHERE WAS HE? WHAT WAS HE THINKING? I DECIDED TO LEAVE EARLY!

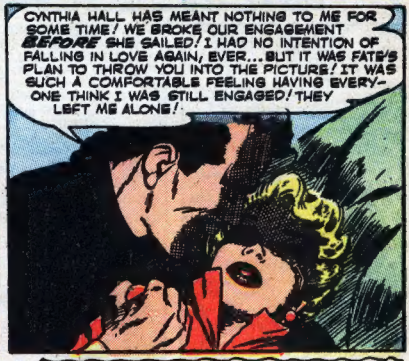


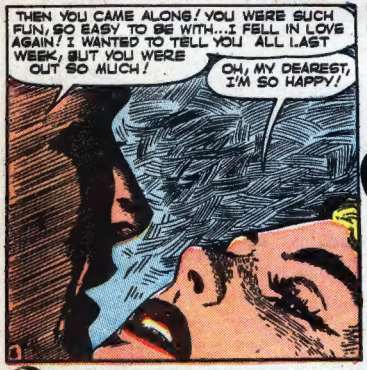
I DROVE HOME FURIOUSLY! A MAN CERTAINLY NEEDED A FRIEND WHEN HIS FIANCEE DESERTED HIM! CYNTHIA PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE DECENCY TO TELL HIM HERSELF!

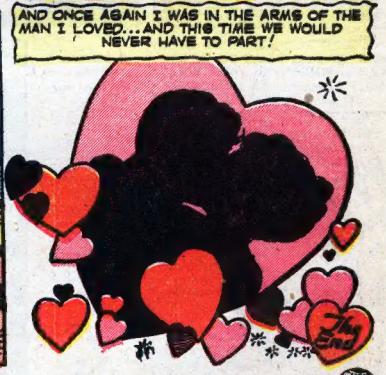
MY CAR GROUND TO A SUDDEN STOP WHEN I REALIZED THAT THE DEJECTED, LONELY MAN FISHING AT THE LAKE WAS ALLEN! WHAT COULD I SAY TO HIM?

MY HEART POUNDED SO LOUDLY I WAS SURE HE COULD HEAR IT! BUT HE JUST SAT, BROODING AND SIGHING...

SUDDENLY HE TURNED UP HIS FACE AND BEGAN TO LAUGH UPROARIOUSLY! I THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT HE HAD GONE MAD WITH GRIEF!


CYNTHIA HALL HAS MEANT NOTHING TO ME FOR SOME TIME! WE BROKE OUR ENGAGEMENT BEFORE SHE SAILED! I HAD NO INTENTION OF FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN, EVER... BUT IT WAS FATE'S PLAN TO THROW YOU INTO THE PICTURE! IT WAS SUCH A COMFORTABLE FEELING HAVING EVERYONE THINK I WAS STILL ENGAGED! THEY LEFT ME ALONE!


THEN YOU CAME ALONG! YOU WERE SUCH FUN, SO EASY TO BE WITH... I FELL IN LOVE AGAIN! I WANTED TO TELL YOU ALL LAST WEEK, BUT YOU WERE OUT SO MUCH!
OH, MY DEAREST, I'M SO HAPPY!



ATLAS
FOR THE BEST IN ROMANCE LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER!
ATLAS

Tell Me What You Want Money For . . .

I'LL HELP YOU GET ALL YOU NEED!

MR. B. J. STUART
President of Stuart Greetings, Has Helped Thousands Make Good Money!

EASY TO EARN $50 TO $150 AND MORE IN JUST YOUR SPARE TIME!

What do YOU want that money will buy? Whether it's new clothes, sporting equipment, household appliances, or anything else . . . just check the coupon. I'll show you how you can earn all the money you need, quickly and easily, taking orders for STUART Greeting Cards! And I'll send you everything you need to start earning right away.

YOU DON'T NEED EXPERIENCE!

It takes no special skill to sell a complete assortment of beautiful new Birthday and other Greeting Cards—a generous supply for year 'round use—for just $1.00. This exciting bargain really *sells itself.* All you do is show it to friends and neighbors and you keep up to HALF the price as your cash profit! Say you want anything that costs $50.00. Sell only 100 boxes and you've got the money! Folks will also want our exciting new Gift Items, Stationery, Gift Wrappings and the other fast-sellers in our big line. They help you earn still more easy money!

GET MONEY-MAKING KIT ON FREE TRIAL!

See for yourself how easy it is to get the money for anything you want. Check the coupon and mail it now. I'll send you a complete kit of samples including fast-selling assortments on FREE TRIAL and full facts on how to reach your goal fast. Don't delay. Act TODAY!

SEE HOW WELL OTHERS HAVE DONE!

This is the easiest and most dignified way to earn money for Scout camp, Christmas presents and spending money in general. *P.E., New York*

I made $21.75 in approximately 3 hours one afternoon. Everyone just loves these beautiful greeting cards and it's so easy to show and sell them. *C.R.P., North Carolina*

STUART GREETINGS, INC.
325 W. Randolph St., Dept. 621, Chicago 6, Ill.

RUSH COUPON FOR FREE TRIAL KIT!

Mr. B. J. Stuart, STUART GREETINGS
325 W. Randolph St., Dept. 621, Chicago 6, Ill.
Dear Mr. Stuart: I've checked off what I want money for:

- ☐ Sporting Equipment
- ☐ New Clothes
- ☐ Team Uniforms
- ☐ Electric Toaster
- ☐ Portable Radio
- ☐ _____

Please rush full facts on how to make the money, and sample kit of assortments ON FREE TRIAL.

Name _____

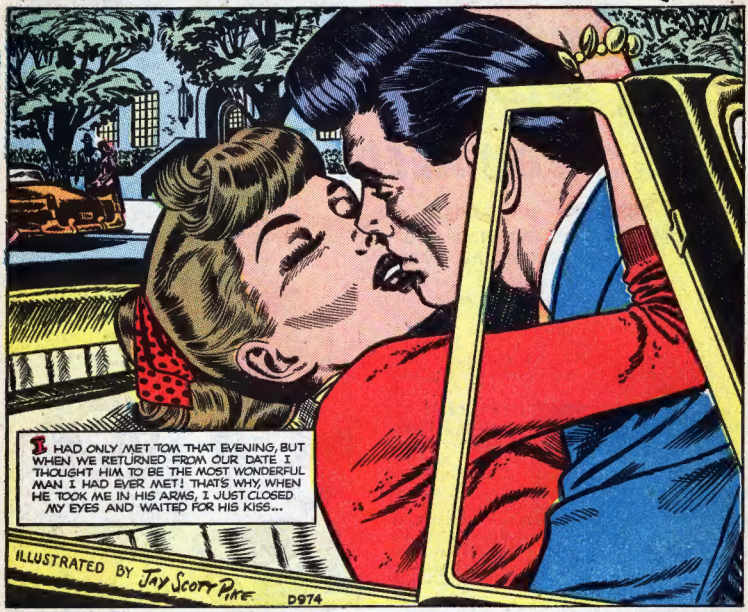
Address _____

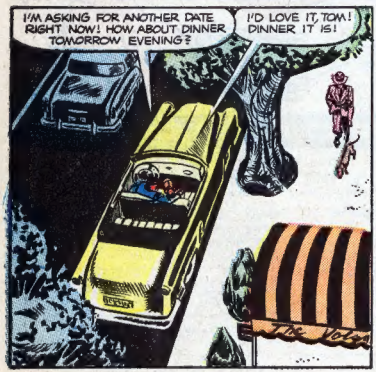
City & Zone _____ State _____

(If for a club, give its name below.)

_____

MAN-BAIT!


I HAD ONLY MET TOM THAT EVENING, BUT WHEN WE RETURNED FROM OUR DATE I THOUGHT HIM TO BE THE MOST WONDERFUL MAN I HAD EVER MET! THAT'S WHY, WHEN HE TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS, I JUST CLOSED MY EYES AND WAITED FOR HIS KISS...
ILLUSTRATED BY JAY SCOTT PIKE
D974


I'M ASKING FOR ANOTHER DATE RIGHT NOW! HOW ABOUT DINNER TOMORROW EVENING?
I'D LOVE IT, TOM! DINNER IT IS!

MAYBE IT WASN'T RIGHT TO LET HIM KISS ME ON OUR VERY FIRST DATE! BUT I WANTED HIM TO...MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD!

SLOWLY I MOUNTED THE STAIRS TO MY APARTMENT, AND AS I LEANED AGAINST THE DOOR, I WAS ONLY DIMLY CONSCIOUS OF MY ROOMMATE AND CO-WORKER, BABS FREMONT...
COME OUT OF IT, CAROL! SHAKE THAT STARDUST OUT OF YOUR EYES AND COME BACK TO EARTH!
I'M NEVER COMING BACK!
I PEEKED OUT THE WINDOW, AND I SAW EVERYTHING! THAT WAS SOME KISS, EVEN BY HOLLYWOOD STANDARDS! IT LOOKED LIKE IT WOULD GO ON FOREVER!
I WISH IT DID!
IN THAT CASE, YOU AND I HAD BETTER HAVE A SERIOUS LITTLE TALK RIGHT NOW! YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT MEN, AND TOM IN PARTICULAR!
BUT THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO LEARN ABOUT TOM! I KNOW I LOVE HIM, AND I THINK HE FEELS THE SAME ABOUT ME!
ALL RIGHT, YOU LOVE HIM, AND YOU HAVE REASON TO FEEL HE'S INTERESTED, TOO! BUT HOW DO YOU KEEP THAT INTEREST GROWING?
I DON'T KNOW, BABS! I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY!
I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T! IF YOU HAD, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE KISSED HIM ON THIS FIRST DATE! IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF MODESTY... IT'S A MATTER OF PLAIN, OLD-FASHIONED, SOUND JUDGMENT!
JUST WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
THE QUICKEST WAY TO MAKE A MAN LOSE INTEREST IS TO SHOW HIM HOW YOU REALLY FEEL! HE TAKES IT AS AN EASY CONQUEST! YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP A MAN GUESSING! IT'S THE SUREST KIND OF MAN-BAIT THERE IS!
I COULDN'T STAND TOM LOSING INTEREST IN ME! I LOVE HIM SO MUCH!
THEN DO IT MY WAY! YOU MAY FIND IT A BIT DIFFICULT AT FIRST, BUT YOU'LL BE THANKING ME WHEN HE SLIPS THE RING ON YOUR FINGER!
2

& HE "HARD-TO-GET, KEEP-'EM-GUESSING" SYSTEM BECAME THE ORDER OF THE DAY! IT WAS SOMETHING NEW FOR ME, AND THE FOLLOWING DAY AT THE OFFICE, I RECEIVED LESSON NUMBER ONE...
"THAT MUST BE TOM! HE SAID HE'D CALL TO MAKE SURE ABOUT TONIGHT!
YOU'RE FORGETTING, CAROL! BETTER LET ME HANDLE IT!
OH, TOM WINTERS? MY NAME'S BABS FREMONT! CAROL AND I SHARE THE APARTMENT AND WORK TOGETHER! NO...SHE ISN'T IN AT THE MOMENT, BUT SHE ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE!
SHE'S TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT TONIGHT, BUT SHE FORGOT ALL ABOUT A THEATER APPOINTMENT SHE MADE LAST WEEK! SHE LEFT THE OFFICE EARLY TO GET READY! I'LL TELL HER YOU CALLED! GOOD-BYE!
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
HE'LL THINK YOU'RE POPULAR AND YOUR STOCK WILL SOAR! NOW THAT HE THINKS THERE ARE OTHERS BESIDES HIMSELF, HE'LL BECOME TWICE AS EAGER!
MR. CARSON
MAY
FRANKLY, I THOUGHT THAT I HAD LOST TOM FOR GOOD BUT TO MY SURPRISE, BABS' THEORY PROVED CORRECT! TOM CALLED THE FOLLOWING MORNING FOR A DINNER AND DANCING DATE THAT NIGHT...
HOW DO I LOOK?
PERFECT! BUT REMEMBER WHAT I SAID! STAY IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT AND SEE THAT YOUR HEAD DOES THE STEERING... NOT YOUR HEART!
FOLLOWING BABS' ADVICE PROVED DIFFICULT! I YEARNED TO TELL HIM HOW MUCH I HAD MISSED HIM, HOW HAPPY I WAS TO BE WITH HIM...BUT REASON RULED OUT THE IMPULSE...
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T MIND MY CALLING AGAIN SO SOON, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE OUT!
IT WAS REALLY MY FAULT, TOM, BUT MY EVENINGS ARE SO TAKEN UP...A GIRL CAN'T HELP FORGETTING!
I SUPPOSE YOU WOULD HAVE A LOT OF DATES AT THAT! YOU'RE VERY ATTRACTIVE, CAROL!
I KEEP BUSY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN! IF I TRIED TO KEEP UP WITH ALL OF IT, I'D NEVER HAVE A MOMENT TO MYSELF!
3
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

CHEW IMPROVED FORMULA

CHEWING GUM!

REDUCE

Up to 5 lbs. a Week With Dr. Phillips Plan

Reduce to a slimmer more graceful figure the way Dr. Phillips recommends — without starving — without missing a single meal! Here for you NOW — a scientific way which guarantees you can lose as much weight as you wish — or YOU PAY NOTHING! No Drugs, No Starvation, No Exercises or Laxatives. The amazing thing is that it is so easy to follow — simple and safe to lose those ugly, fatty bulges. Each and every week you lose pounds safely until you reach the weight that most becomes you. Now at last you have the doctors' new modern way to reduce — to acquire that dreamed about silhouette, an improved slimmer, exciting, more graceful figure. Simply chew delicious improved Formula Dr. Phillips Kelpidine Chewing Gum and follow Dr. Phillips Plan. This wholesome, tasty delicious Kelpidine Chewing Gum contains Hexitol, REDUCES appetite and is sugar free. Hexitol is a new discovery and contains no fat and no available carbohydrates. Enjoy chewing this delicious gum and reduce with Dr. Phillips Plan. Try it for 12 days, then step on the scale. You'll hardly believe your eyes. Good for men too.

$1 12 DAY SUPPLY ONLY

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE! 10 DAY FREE TRIAL!

Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing Dr. Phillips KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCING PLAN for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have lost weight and look slimmer you pay nothing.

AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS CO., Dept. CH-214 318 Market St., Newark, N. J.

Just mail us your name and address, and $1.00 cash, check or money-order. You will receive a 12 day supply of KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM (improved Formula), and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan postage prepaid.

NAME_____ ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____

☐ Send me Special 24 day supply and FREE 12 day package for $2.00. I understand that if I am not delighted with KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan, I can return in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

SENT ON APPROVAL – MAIL COUPON NOW!

WHEN HE BROUGHT ME HOME, I KNEW IT WOULD TAKE THE GREATEST EFFORT OF ALL! THERE WAS THAT MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND THEN HE STARTED TO TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS...

I'M SO TIRED, TOM! YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU? IT'S BEEN A LOVELY EVENING, AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW I ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT OF IT!

BUT, CAROL, I...

WELL, WHAT I MEAN IS, HOW ABOUT A DRIVE TOMORROW NIGHT?

I COULDN'T TOMORROW, BUT MAYBE LATER IN THE WEEK! YOU CAN PHONE ME IF YOU LIKE!

SO THE WEEKS PASSED, AND I FOLLOWED BABS' SYSTEM TO THE LETTER! I SPACED MY DATES WITH TOM AT REGULAR INTERVALS, WHILE BABS CHEERED ME ON...

MAY

JUNE

JULY

BUT IN A WAY IT WAS A HOLLOW VICTORY! I MAY HAVE HAD BABS' ASSURANCE, BUT THE ONLY KISSES I GOT FROM TOM WERE IN MY DREAMS!

I DECIDED TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK WITH BABS ONE NIGHT...

I WAS JUST THINKING, BABS, WHETHER I'VE CARRIED THIS THING A LITTLE TOO FAR! FRANKLY, I'M A LITTLE WORRIED! TOM HASN'T CALLED ALL THIS WEEK!

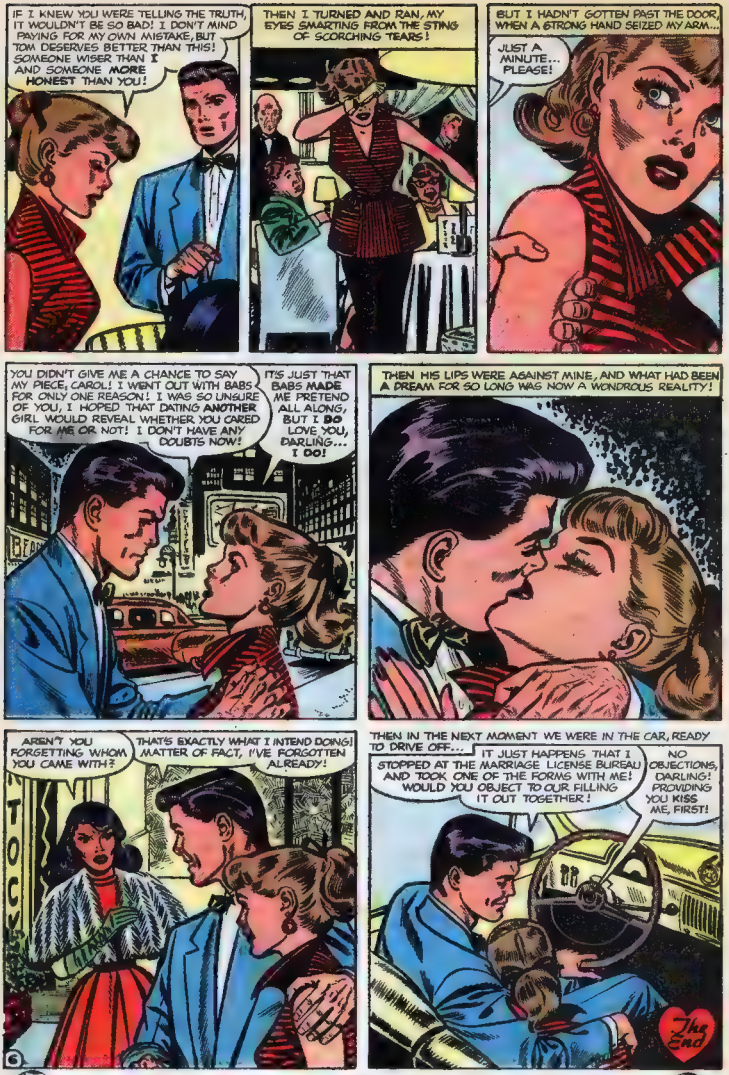
RELAX, CAROL! IF I KNOW THE SIGNS, HE'S ABOUT READY TO POP THE BIG QUESTION! HE'S PROBABLY THINKING IT OVER IN HIS MIND, AND IF YOU PLAY IT SMART, YOU'LL LAND HIM FOR SURE!

YOU MAKE IT SOUND A LITTLE COARSE, BABS! AFTER ALL, I DO LOVE HIM!

ALL THE MORE REASON WHY YOU SHOULDN'T SPOIL THINGS NOW! YOU GO AHEAD AND CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK! WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT WHEN I GET BACK!

IN A MOMENT SHE WAS GONE, AND FOR SOME UNACCOUNTABLE REASON, I EXPERIENCED A CHILL OF FEAR! MY FIRST IMPULSE WAS TO GO TO THE WINDOW, BUT AS I DREW BACK THE CURTAIN I WASN'T PREPARED FOR WHAT I SAW!

BUT IT WAS ALL TOO SHOCKINGLY TRUE!
FOR A LONG WHILE, I EXPERIENCED A NUMBING PARALYSIS! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I SAT THERE, BUT SLOWLY I WAS AWARE OF RETURNING THOUGHTS AND THE SALTY TASTE OF TEARS...
SO THAT WAS HER GAME! SHE PLAYED ME FOR A FOOL! SHE HAD ME PRETEND DISINTEREST IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE TOM! THEN SHE TOOK OVER!
BUT SHE WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT! MAYBE I'VE LOST OUT, BUT TOM'S TOO DECENT TO BE TAKEN IN BY HER KIND! HE HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW!
SHE SAID SHE HAD A DATE AT THE TICK TOCK CLUB, AND I DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME! A CAB BROUGHT ME THERE IN TWENTY MINUTES...
MAY I HELP YOU, MISS?
IT'S ALL RIGHT! SOME FRIENDS ARE WAITING! I CAN SEE THEM NOW!
Menu
I DIDN'T WANT A SCENE, BUT I WAS TOO UPSET TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH WHAT OTHERS MIGHT THINK! I WALKED DIRECTLY TO THEIR TABLE...
CAROL!
THIS IS A SURPRISE!
IT SHOULDN'T BE, BABS! YOU MUST HAVE FIGURED ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS SOONER OR LATER!
MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL STEP OUTSIDE, AND...
NO NEED FOR THAT, TOM! SHE PLAYED YOU FOR A FOOL, AND NOW THAT YOU CAUGHT ON TO HER LITTLE GAME, SHE'S PRETENDING OUTRAGEOUS INDIGNATION!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL MIXED UP, BABS! IT WAS YOUR LITTLE GAME, AND I WAS THE ONE PLAYED FOR A FOOL! IT'S OVER AND DONE WITH NOW... AT LEAST BE DECENT ENOUGH TO ADMIT IT!
I'LL ADMIT TO ONLY ONE THING! YOU SHOULD HAVE APPRECIATED TOM... THE WAY I DO!

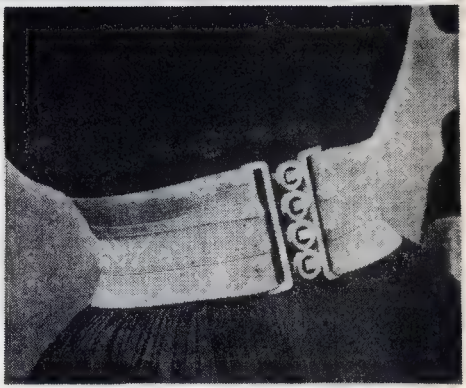

IF I KNEW YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH, IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD! I DON'T MIND PAYING FOR MY OWN MISTAKE, BUT TOM DESERVES BETTER THAN THIS! SOMEONE WISER THAN I AND SOMEONE MORE HONEST THAN YOU!
THEN I TURNED AND RAN, MY EYES SMARTING FROM THE STING OF SCORCHING TEARS!
BUT I HADN'T GOTTEN PAST THE DOOR, WHEN A STRONG HAND SEIZED MY ARM...
JUST A MINUTE... PLEASE!
YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SAY MY PIECE, CAROL! I WENT OUT WITH BABS FOR ONLY ONE REASON! I WAS SO UNSURE OF YOU, I HOPED THAT DATING ANOTHER GIRL WOULD REVEAL WHETHER YOU CARED FOR ME OR NOT! I DON'T HAVE ANY DOUBTS NOW!
IT'S JUST THAT BABS MADE ME PRETEND ALL ALONG, BUT I DO LOVE YOU, DARLING... I DO!
THEN HIS LIPS WERE AGAINST MINE, AND WHAT HAD BEEN A DREAM FOR SO LONG WAS NOW A WONDROUS REALITY!
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING WHOM YOU CAME WITH?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND DOING! MATTER OF FACT, I'VE FORGOTTEN ALREADY!
THEN IN THE NEXT MOMENT WE WERE IN THE CAR, READY TO DRIVE OFF...
IT JUST HAPPENS THAT I STOPPED AT THE MARRIAGE LICENSE BUREAU AND TOOK ONE OF THE FORMS WITH ME! WOULD YOU OBJECT TO OUR FILLING IT OUT TOGETHER!
NO OBJECTIONS, DARLING! PROVIDING YOU KISS ME, FIRST!
The End
6

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN ROMANCE LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

THE HOUR GLASS WAIST NIPPER

ACCESSORY SENSATION OF THE NATION

3 for $2.00



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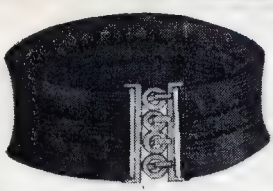

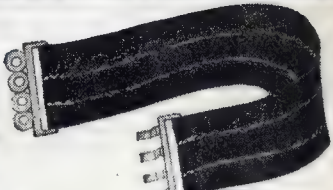

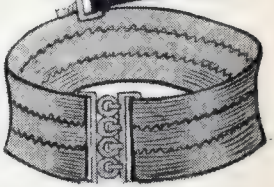

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THE LOVE I FOUND

FROM the very first moment I met Bill, I knew that he'd confuse my life if I allowed him to. He was that man whom every girl meets in her lifetime and sometimes she marries him and has a life of heartache; and sometimes she doesn't marry him and spends the rest of her life wishing that she had. Bill was one of those terrible, lovable, inconsiderate, yet kind persons.

We met very simply and informally on a park bench one early spring afternoon when the park was beginning to boast of soft green grass and pink and yellow flowers. I had become restless in the office and had asked my boss, Patrick Hamilton, if I could have the afternoon off. He had no more dictation to give me for the day so that there had been no reluctance on his part to letting me go. But then, there wouldn't be, since Patrick Hamilton had asked me to marry him just the night before.

Because I wanted to think over Pat's proposal, and because I always felt inhibited in the springtime, I had to find a bench with a good view, and relax.

I'd sat alone for over an hour when Bill finally walked past me, with a book in his hand, and sat down at the far end of the same bench. He didn't notice me. He looked around for a few moments and then opened his book and began to read. Nothing else seemed to exist for him except that bench, the surrounding greenery, and the book in which he was now completely absorbed.

I found myself afraid to move for fear that I'd disturb him, but yet I couldn't help trying to get a better view of him and his little world. It seemed awfully important at the time.

When he finally did look up, I didn't have time to turn away my inquisitive eyes, and I could feel my face color slightly.

"I don't like to be stared at," he said coldly.

"I'm sorry," I muttered. "I didn't mean to interrupt you. I think I was staring more *through* you than *at* you."

He gave me a curious glance, and then began reading his book again, but only for a few minutes. Then he tossed it down loudly on the bench beside him.

"Have you ever read William Saroyan?" he asked me suddenly.

"A few of his plays and several of his short stories, that's about all."

"What do you think of him?" he said, turning around to face me now with interest.

For some reason I felt it very important for me to say the right thing at this moment, to win the respect and high regard of this man. I wanted to impress him, which put me in somewhat of a ridiculous light.

"I haven't cared for some of his latest works," I said. "They seem confused and entirely too deliberate, but his early works are wonderful. They are beautiful with a gentility that I like in my reading."

"Fine, fine," he said enthusiastically. "I think so too."

I hadn't said anything great, I knew that, and my critique had a school girl touch, but it made him smile at me for the first time, and I felt as if I had just accomplished a great feat. I had made him smile! Even in those early moments I knew that he wasn't used to smiling.

Bill moved down by me and we talked on and on about what we liked and what we didn't like, until the sun slowly descended from view and evening shadows crept over everything in sight.

When we both discovered that we were hungry, Bill suggested a German restaurant nearby, where we could have a "good, substantial meal." And we did.

By the time Bill finally walked me to my apartment, we both knew that we had found a friend in each other. And when he kissed me lightly on the cheek, I felt that it was a natural thing for him to do so.

The days that followed that evening were days of confused thoughts and frustrated dreams. Some days Bill would call two or three times a day, and other days I wouldn't hear from him at all. We'd make a date and I'd be ready, waiting for the doorbell to ring, and perhaps there'd be no sound until several hours later when he'd burst in and apologize and tell me it wouldn't happen again. But it did. Bill was completely under my skin and every moment without him was a moment without life.

I tried not to hurt Pat through-out my whirl-wind romance. I tried to explain how I felt about Bill, but it was difficult when I couldn't even explain Bill to myself. I couldn't understand why he could say he loved me one moment and, without any explanation, not see or call me for days at a time. Pat said I was a fool—and I was beginning to believe that he was right. Perhaps I should try to erase Bill from my life forever.

"I can face the fact that you don't want to marry me, Jane," Pat said. "But I hate to think of your throwing your life away

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY.

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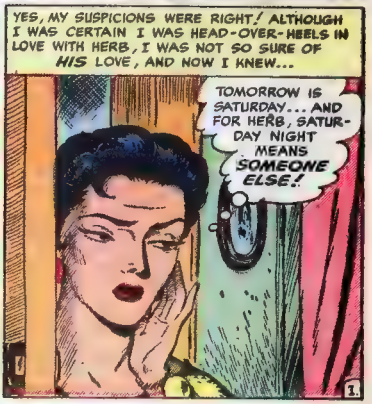
HE HELD ME IN HIS ARMS AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME MY HEART KNEW HOW TO ACT WHEN HE WHISPERED THOSE ONCE THRILLING WORDS...

I Love You Again


YES, MY SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT! ALTHOUGH I WAS CERTAIN I WAS HEAD-OVER-HEELS IN LOVE WITH HERB, I WAS NOT SO SURE OF HIS LOVE, AND NOW I KNEW...
TOMORROW IS SATURDAY... AND FOR HERB, SATURDAY NIGHT MEANS SOMEONE ELSE!

WHEN YOU ARE SO SURE OF BEING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE, YOU TRY TO DENY THE HEART-SEARING THOUGHT THAT THEY MAY *NOT* BE IN LOVE WITH *YOU!* BUT THAT SUNDAY HERB TURNED SERIOUSLY TOWARD ME...

ALICE, THIS ISN'T EASY TO SAY... I'VE KNOWN YOU A YEAR! I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH AND I EVEN THOUGHT THAT I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU!

THERE'S *SOMEONE ELSE!* I'M IN LOVE WITH *HER...*

I...I UNDERSTAND, HERB! GUESS THERE'S NO MORE TO SAY! GOOD NIGHT!

I TURNED AND WALKED INSIDE, FIGHTING BACK THE TEARS SO HERB WOULDN'T SEE HOW DEEPLY I WAS HURT! THEN I FLUNG MYSELF DOWN ON MY BED, MY ANGUISHED HEART FILLED WITH ACHING EMPTINESS...

A WEEK PASSED IN LONELY MISERY, AND THEN MY BEST FRIEND, ANN, TRIED TO HELP! SHE ARRANGED DOUBLE DATES AND PARTIES...

WHAT'S WRONG, ALICE? THE RECORD'S STILL PLAYING!

I'M FEELING SORT OF TIRED! SORRY... WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME?

RUNNING AWAY WON'T HELP, ALICE! YOU'VE GOT TO MEET MEN! THE CURE FOR ONE MAN IS ANOTHER!

I KNOW, ANN... BUT I'M AFRAID AFTER HERB, THERE'LL BE NO OTHER MAN!

THE NEXT DAY, I WENT TO A RECORD STORE! I HAD ENJOYED A NEW SONG THE NIGHT BEFORE AND THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT CHEER ME UP...

HAVE YOU "JUST IMAGINE"?

I'M AFRAID *I* JUST ASKED FOR THE LAST COPY OF IT! WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN THE BOOTH AND LISTEN?

THERE WAS SOMETHING GRACIOUS AND CHARMING ABOUT THE STRANGER'S SUGGESTION! I JOINED HIM IN THE BOOTH! THE RECORD HAD LONG FINISHED PLAYING AND WAS IDLY SPINNING AS WE CHATTED ON GAYLY...

IF WE LIKE THE SAME THINGS IN MUSIC, ALICE, MAYBE WE HAVE THE SAME TASTES IN FOOD! WANT TO FIND OUT AT DINNER TONIGHT?

YES, TED... SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

I ENJOYED BEING WITH TED! DANCING IN HIS ARMS AND LAUGHING TO HIS WORDS, I AT LAST FOUND MYSELF FORGETTING THE BITTER MEMORY OF HERB...

I BEGAN DATING TED TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK AFTER OUR FIRST NIGHT OUT! SLOWLY, JOY CAME BACK TO MY TORMENTED HEART...

WHOEVER FINDS THE FEWEST CLAMS MAKES THE COOKING FIRE!

WE BETTER STOP DIGGING THEM UP PRETTY SOON OR WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO OPEN A RESTAURANT!

AND THAT NIGHT, AS THE FIRE LIGHTED HIS RUGGED FEATURES, I FELT THE TINGLING AWARENESS OF TED'S WARM LIPS ON MINE...

YES, MY HEART WAS MENDING FAST AND ONCE AGAIN LOVE SEEMED TO COME TO ME...

I KEEP TELLING MYSELF NOT TO LET MY FEELINGS GO OVERBOARD SO SOON... BUT I CAN'T HELP IT! TED *IS* SO WONDERFULLY EXCITING!

BUT THERE WERE LONELY NIGHTS, WHEN I DIDN'T SEE TED! ONE NIGHT, I THOUGHT UP A FLIMSY EXCUSE AND CALLED HIM... BUT HE WAS OUT...

THERE ***ARE*** OTHERS! ONCE HURT, I SHOULD BE TWICE AS CAUTIOUS!

BUT YOU CAN'T REASON WITH YOUR HEART, AND LOVE'S WARM GLOW WAS BURNING BRIGHT...

WE HAVEN'T HAD LUNCH TOGETHER FOR TWO WEEKS, ALICE! BUT YOU CERTAINLY ARE LOOKING CHEERFUL!

WHY NOT? I'M ALMOST SURE I'M... WELL, I GUESS I ***CAN'T*** KEEP A SECRET, ANN! I THINK I'M IN LOVE!

CAREFUL, ALICE! WHAT YOU'RE FEELING NOW MAY ***NOT*** BE LOVE! HERB HURT YOU AND ONLY A ***NEW*** LOVE CAN END THE PAIN! YOU'D LIKE TO FALL IN LOVE AND QUICKLY, BUT LOVE ON THE ***REBOUND*** IS RARELY THE ***REAL*** THING!

ANN'S WORDS OF WARNING MADE SENSE, BUT ONCE AGAIN WITH TED, I THREW CAUTION TO THE WINDS AND GAVE MY HEART FREE REIN! WITH EACH EXCITING KISS, I FOUND MYSELF FALLING DEEPER AND MORE HOPELESSLY IN LOVE ...

BUT ANN MAY BE RIGHT! I *AM* ON THE REBOUND... I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TED CARES! THERE ARE NIGHTS WHEN I KNOW HE GOES OUT WITH *OTHERS!*

I TRIED TO KEEP MY FEELINGS IN CHECK! THEN ONE DAY, AS WE ROWED IN THE PARK LAKE...

THE PHONE COMPANY'S SUGGESTING I GET A DIRECT LINE TO YOU, ALICE! I MUST DIAL YOUR NUMBER THREE TIMES A DAY!

BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S THE *ONLY* NUMBER YOU DIAL?

MY HEART BEAT FASTER, AS TED'S LIPS TOUCHED MINE, FOR HIS KISS GAVE HIS ANSWER, AND NOW I WAS ALMOST POSITIVE THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE BUT ME!

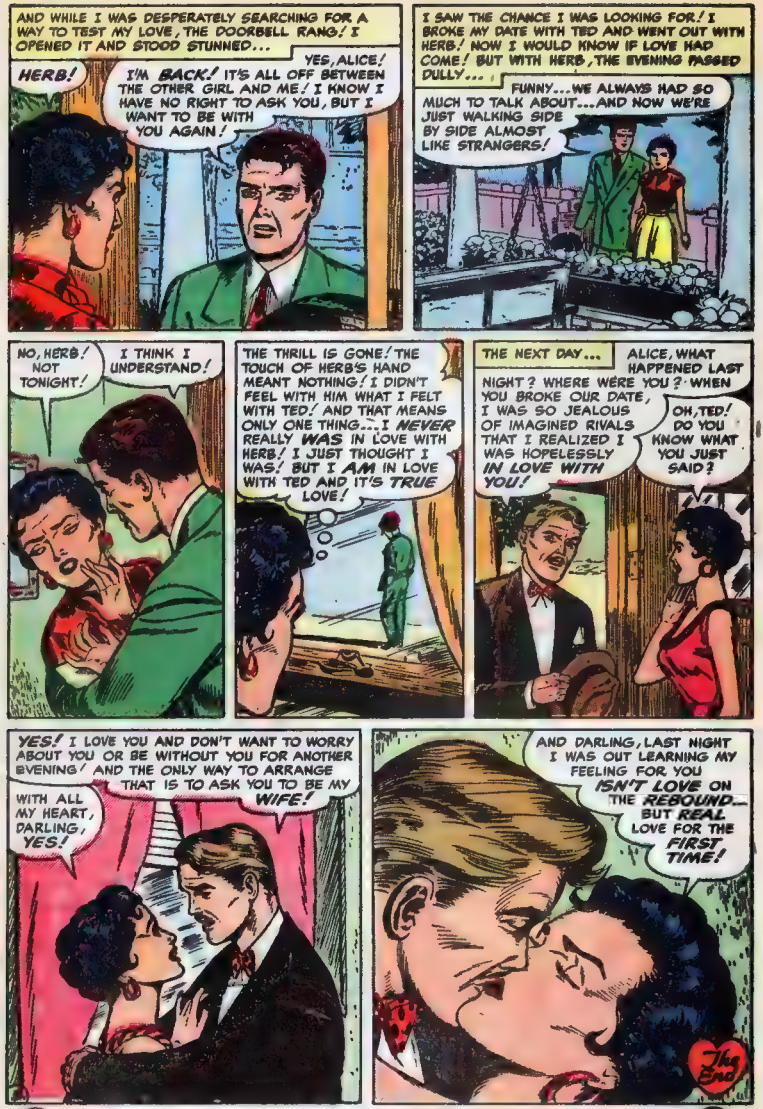
BUT THE NEXT AFTERNOON WHEN I SAW ANN, SHE PUT A DAMPER ON MY GLOWING HOPES...

ANN, I THINK HE'S TOSSED AWAY HIS LITTLE BLACK BOOK AND JUST KEPT *MY* PAGE!

THAT'S HALF THE BATTLE, ALICE, BUT HOW SURE ARE *YOU* OF *YOUR* FEELINGS?

REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO GLORIA! SHE EVEN HAD A RING BEFORE SHE FOUND OUT IT WAS ONLY *LOVE* ON THE *REBOUND!* IT ISN'T EASY TO GET OVER A *SECOND* HURT LIKE THAT! BE *SURE* BEFORE YOU SAY *YES!*

IF THERE WERE ONLY A WAY TO FIND OUT IF THIS *IS* THE REAL THING! BUT *HOW?*


AND WHILE I WAS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO TEST MY LOVE, THE DOORBELL RANG! I OPENED IT AND STOOD STUNNED...
HERB!
I'M BACK! IT'S ALL OFF BETWEEN THE OTHER GIRL AND ME! I KNOW I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ASK YOU, BUT I WANT TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN!
YES, ALICE!
I SAW THE CHANCE I WAS LOOKING FOR! I BROKE MY DATE WITH TED AND WENT OUT WITH HERB! NOW I WOULD KNOW IF LOVE HAD COME! BUT WITH HERB, THE EVENING PASSED DULLY...
FUNNY... WE ALWAYS HAD SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT... AND NOW WE'RE JUST WALKING SIDE BY SIDE ALMOST LIKE STRANGERS!
NO, HERB! NOT TONIGHT!
I THINK I UNDERSTAND!
THE THRILL IS GONE! THE TOUCH OF HERB'S HAND MEANT NOTHING! I DIDN'T FEEL WITH HIM WHAT I FELT WITH TED! AND THAT MEANS ONLY ONE THING... I NEVER REALLY WAS IN LOVE WITH HERB! I JUST THOUGHT I WAS! BUT I AM IN LOVE WITH TED AND IT'S TRUE LOVE!
THE NEXT DAY...
ALICE, WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT? WHERE WERE YOU? WHEN YOU BROKE OUR DATE, I WAS SO JEALOUS OF IMAGINED RIVALS THAT I REALIZED I WAS HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH YOU!
OH, TED! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST SAID?
YES! I LOVE YOU AND DON'T WANT TO WORRY ABOUT YOU OR BE WITHOUT YOU FOR ANOTHER EVENING! AND THE ONLY WAY TO ARRANGE THAT IS TO ASK YOU TO BE MY WIFE!
WITH ALL MY HEART, DARLING, YES!
AND DARLING, LAST NIGHT I WAS OUT LEARNING MY FEELING FOR YOU ISN'T LOVE ON THE REBOUND... BUT REAL LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME!
The End

ATLAS
FOR THE BEST IN ROMANCE LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER!
ATLAS

LOOK AT SKINNY! I wouldn't be seen with him!
AM I PROUD OF THE WAY THE GIRLS LOOK AT YOU!
AND HE USED TO BE SO SKINNY!
WHAT A MAN!
LATER

SKINNY

MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIM!

GIRLS ARE NOT ALLURING AND DON'T HAVE EYE-CATCHING CURVES!

CHILDREN WHO WON'T EAT AND ARE UNDERWEIGHT, OFTEN CALLED SKINNY!

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on a fellow like that. How's he going to support you? You don't even know what kind of work he can do."

And Pat was right. I only knew that Bill was still living off the money he had saved while he was overseas, and that he hadn't settled down to a steady job. He talked of going back to school, studying architecture, writing—but as far as I knew, he hadn't made an effort to do any of them.

What of myself, I thought. Should I not think of myself? I was twenty-five years old, had a business school diploma behind me, along with years of hard, steady work. I had an opportunity to marry Patrick Hamilton, a successful manufacturer, and if I did, I could expect to spend the rest of my life in economical and emotional bliss. But the more I reasoned with myself, the harder the thorn dug into my side.

The night of the yearly office party, when Bill called me *three hours late* to tell me he had news for me and he'd be right over, I was determined to call everything off. I had wanted Pat to meet Bill and know for himself the man with whom I was in love, and now we'd be three hours late, and Pat would know well enough without having met him. I was infuriated by the time my doorbell rang.

"Darling," he said with a smile. "I've got great news for us."

I didn't give him time to tell me the news. I had to say my speech quickly before my anger died down and I lost my nerve. I had to tell him that we were through, and that I never wanted to see him again under any circumstances — and would he please go now quickly and forget we'd ever met! I said it all, and from the look on his face I knew I had said every word in the world to hurt him. He didn't say anything to me. He just walked slowly to the door, closing it softly behind him.

That night I cried until I could cry no longer—there were no tears left.

Everyone who knew about Bill and me said that I did the wise thing, but I closed my ears to what they were saying. If I had closed my ears a long time ago, perhaps the doubts would never have crept into my mind, and I'd still have him. I knew that I'd rather have him, late and inconsiderate as he would always be, than not at all.

I took a short vacation and went up to visit my family on their farm in upper New York state, hoping that I could cleanse my thoughts there. And I did, a little. By the time I returned to my job, I could control myself better.

I arrived at the office unexpectedly, and as soon as I walked in, I could feel everyone's glance. For some reason I was the center of attraction and I felt uncomfortable about it. By the time I reached Pat's office, I was half running, to escape their eyes. I opened the door quickly and stepped inside.

"Jane!" Pat exclaimed from behind his mahogany desk. "What a surprise!"

"Pat," I said in a trembling voice. "What's the matter? Why is everyone in the outer offices looking at me like a special kind of monster?" And then I asked, incredulously, "Has anything happened to Bill?"

"Darling, haven't you heard?" Pat asked.

"Heard what?"

"That Bill has written a novel that has swept the country. He's famous, darling, and his book is dedicated to you."

I sat down in a chair opposite Pat and listened to him talk. The story was that Bill had written a book about a young vet who was embittered and confused when the war ended and only through the patience and understanding of the girl he loved was he able to regain his faith in the world.

"It's a great book, Jane, and it took a great man to write it," Pat concluded.

When I left Pat's office, I began to walk, it made no difference where. I had made a real mess out of my life just because I had made up my mind that Bill spelled trouble. How many time can a girl be a fool in one romance, I asked myself?

As I strolled along, kicking aside the autumn leaves, my feet seemed to drift over toward the park. I had no control over them, they just seemed to be carrying my body along as if they were sure of each step. And when they turned down the path toward our favorite bench, I knew they were right, because there was Bill. He watched me approach and sit down beside him and he only smiled.

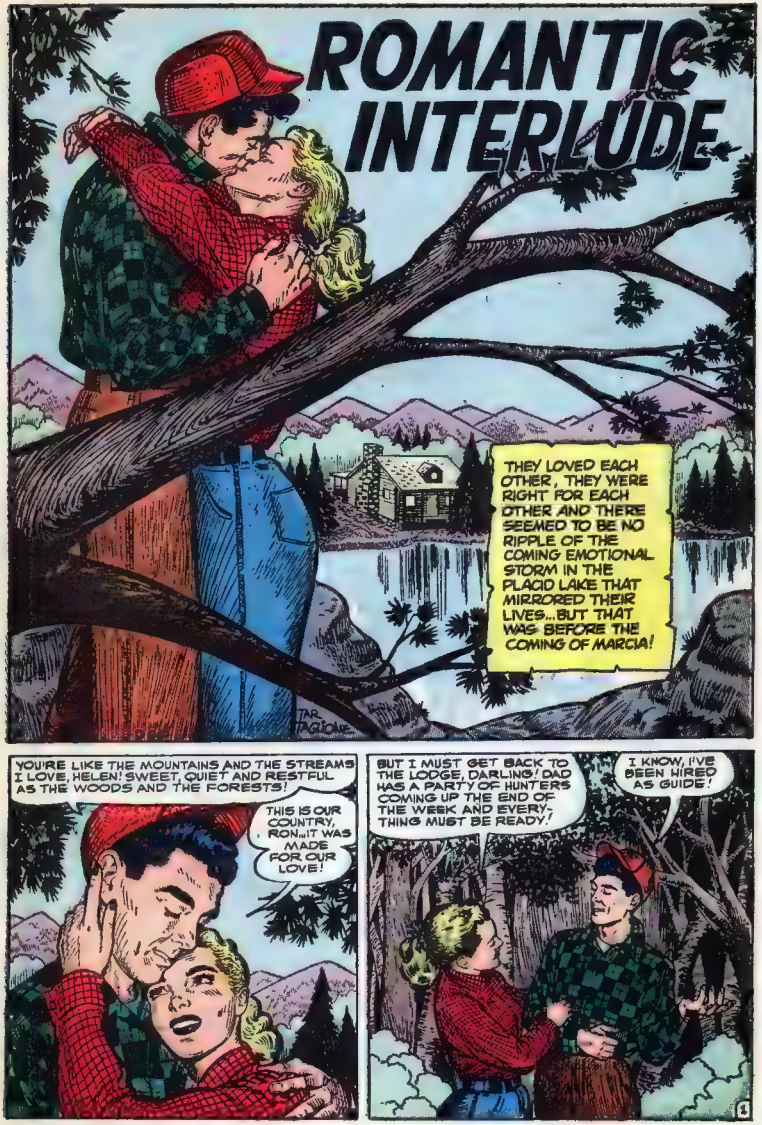
"I knew you'd come back," he said softly.

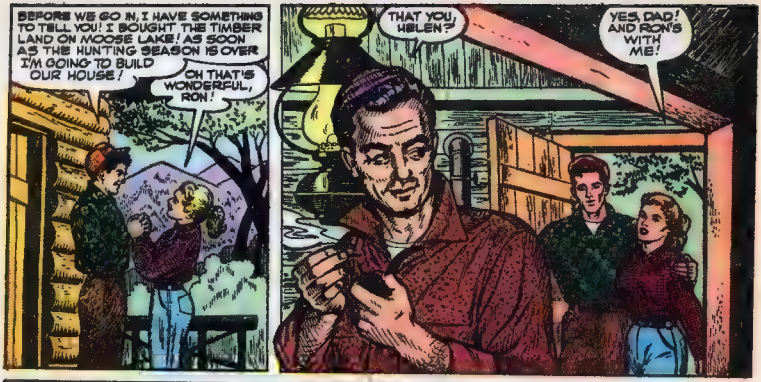
"I had to, Bill, darling," I said. "I had to."

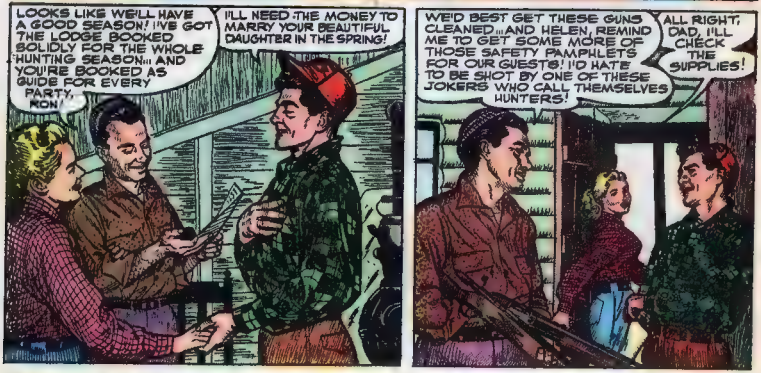
Bill told me how he had been trying in vain to finish his novel, but it was only when he met me that he found the strength. That was what he wanted to say the night I told him we were through . . . that had been the great news he wanted to share with me.

As I said in the beginning, there's a Bill in every girl's life and sometimes she marries him and has a life-time of heartache. But I forgot to mention that if she is patient and understanding, there's an equal chance for happiness. And I had to learn that lesson.

THE END


ROMANTIC INTERLUDE
THEY LOVED EACH OTHER, THEY WERE RIGHT FOR EACH OTHER AND THERE SEEMED TO BE NO RIPPLE OF THE COMING EMOTIONAL STORM IN THE PLACID LAKE THAT MIRRORED THEIR LIVES...BUT THAT WAS BEFORE THE COMING OF MARCIA!
YOU'RE LIKE THE MOUNTAINS AND THE STREAMS I LOVE, HELEN! SWEET, QUIET AND RESTFUL AS THE WOODS AND THE FORESTS!
THIS IS OUR COUNTRY, RON...IT WAS MADE FOR OUR LOVE!
BUT I MUST GET BACK TO THE LODGE, DARLING! DAD HAS A PARTY OF HUNTERS COMING UP THE END OF THE WEEK AND EVERYTHING MUST BE READY!
I KNOW, I'VE BEEN HIRED AS GUIDE!

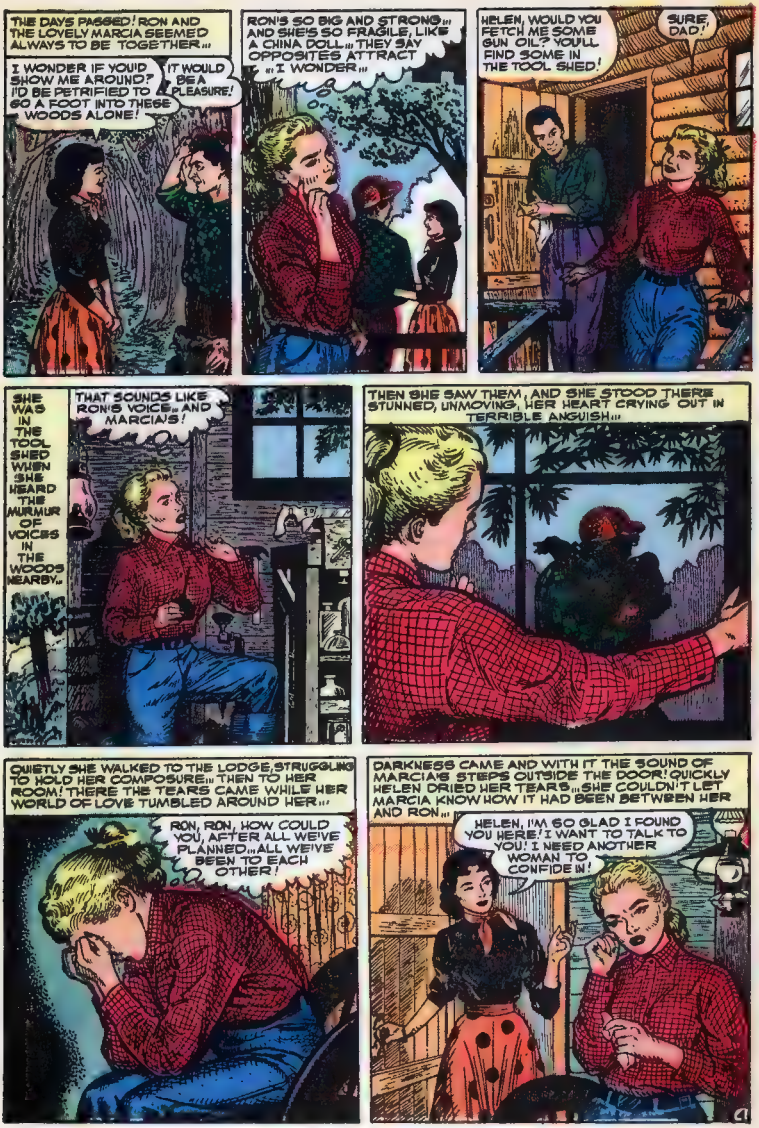

BEFORE WE GO IN, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU! I BOUGHT THE TIMBER LAND ON MOOSE LAKE! AS SOON AS THE HUNTING SEASON IS OVER I'M GOING TO BUILD OUR HOUSE!
OH THAT'S WONDERFUL, RON!
THAT YOU, HELEN?
YES, DAD! AND RON'S WITH ME!


LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE A GOOD SEASON! I'VE GOT THE LODGE BOOKED SOLIDLY FOR THE WHOLE HUNTING SEASON... AND YOU'RE BOOKED AS GUIDE FOR EVERY PARTY, RON!
I'LL NEED THE MONEY TO MARRY YOUR BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER IN THE SPRING!
WE'D BEST GET THESE GUNS CLEANED... AND HELEN, REMIND ME TO GET SOME MORE OF THOSE SAFETY PAMPHLETS FOR OUR GUESTS! I'D HATE TO BE SHOT BY ONE OF THESE JOKERS WHO CALL THEMSELVES HUNTERS!
ALL RIGHT, DAD, I'LL CHECK THE SUPPLIES!

AT NIGHT, HELEN DIDN'T DREAM OF THE FUTURE! SHE JUST DREAMED OF RON, FOR HE WAS HER FUTURE!

THEY LOVED THIS COUNTRY AND THEY LOVED EACH OTHER, AND EVERY NEW DAY WAS AN ADVENTURE! EVEN THE LITTLE EVERYDAY CHORES BROUGHT THEM CLOSER TOGETHER!
HERE COMES THE GAME WARDEN FROM TOWN! HE'S GOT SOMEONE WITH HIM!
2

HI, BILL, WHAT'S UP?
BROUGHT YOU A COUPLE OF LODGERS! THEIR CAR BROKE DOWN IN TOWN an' AN' FRED AT THE GARAGE SAYS HE HAS TO SEND FOR PARTS! MIGHT TAKE A WEEK OR TWO!
THEY TOLD US THERE WERE NO HOTELS IN DEERS END AND THAT YOU COULD GIVE US ACCOMODATIONS UNTIL THE CAR IS REPAIRED!
GUESS WE CAN PUT YOU UP ALL RIGHT, MISTER!
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T SHE?
YES, LIKE SOMEONE YOU SEE IN THE MAGAZINE ADS OR IN THE MOVIES!
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, HELEN, AND OUR GUIDE, RON an' MISS ROGERS AN' MR. ST. JOHN OF NEW YORK! I WAS TELLING MISS ROGERS SHE'D HAVE TO DOUBLE UP WITH YOU, HELEN, IN YOUR ROOM!
PLEASE CALL ME, MARCIA! I HOPE IT WILL BE NO BOTHER, HELEN!
NONE AT ALL, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
PLEASE CALL ME GARRY!
HELEN TOOK MARCIA TO THE ROOM THEY'D SHARE...
THIS RON, THE GUIDE, HE'S SO RUGGEDLY HANDSOME! WE DON'T SEE HIS KIND IN THE CITY OFTEN!
RON IS A MAN OF THE OUTDOORS!
THAT DAUGHTER OF YOURS IS A REAL BACKWOODS VENUS!
TAKES AFTER HER MOTHER! NOT THE NERVOUS TYPE LIKE YOUR CITY-BRED WOMEN, MEANING NO DISRESPECT FOR YOUR FIANCEE, OF COURSE!


THE DAYS PASSED! RON AND THE LOVELY MARCIA SEEMED ALWAYS TO BE TOGETHER...
I WONDER IF YOU'D SHOW ME AROUND? I'D BE PETRIFIED TO GO A FOOT INTO THESE WOODS ALONE!
IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE!
RON'S SO BIG AND STRONG... AND SHE'S SO FRAGILE, LIKE A CHINA DOLL... THEY SAY OPPOSITES ATTRACT
"I WONDER..."
HELEN, WOULD YOU FETCH ME SOME GUN OIL? YOU'LL FIND SOME IN THE TOOL SHED!
SURE, DAD!
SHE WAS IN THE TOOL SHED WHEN SHE HEARD THE MURMUR OF VOICES IN THE WOODS NEARBY...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE RON'S VOICE... AND MARCIA'S!
THEN SHE SAW THEM, AND SHE STOOD THERE STUNNED, UNMOVING, HER HEART CRYING OUT IN TERRIBLE ANGUISH...
QUIETLY SHE WALKED TO THE LODGE, STRUGGLING TO HOLD HER COMPOSURE. THEN TO HER ROOM! THERE THE TEARS CAME WHILE HER WORLD OF LOVE TUMBLED AROUND HER...
RON, RON, HOW COULD YOU, AFTER ALL WE'VE PLANNED... ALL WE'VE BEEN TO EACH OTHER!
DARKNESS CAME AND WITH IT THE SOUND OF MARCIA'S STEPS OUTSIDE THE DOOR! QUICKLY HELEN DRIED HER TEARS... SHE COULDN'T LET MARCIA KNOW HOW IT HAD BEEN BETWEEN HER AND RON...
HELEN, I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU HERE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU! I NEED ANOTHER WOMAN TO CONFIDE IN!

FIRST I MUST TELL YOU ABOUT GARRY AND ME! WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE FIVE! OUR PARENTS ARRANGED OUR MARRIAGE... IT WAS SOMETHING WE BOTH TOOK FOR GRANTED!
I THOUGHT GARRY WAS THE ONLY MAN FOR ME! THEN WE CAME HERE, AND I MET RON! HELEN, I LOVE RON, AND RON LOVES ME!
YOU'RE SURE RON LOVES YOU?
HE TOLD ME SO! BUT HOW CAN I TELL GARRY?
I DON'T KNOW, MARCIA! IT'S QUITE A BLOW TO FIND OUT THAT SOMEONE YOU THOUGHT LOVES YOU, DOESN'T! WHY DON'T YOU WAIT A DAY OR SO?
A LITTLE TIME... PERHAPS THINGS WOULD CHANGE... HELEN WAS CLUTCHING AT STRAWS! THE DAYS PASSED BUT BROUGHT NO CHANGE! RON AVOIDED HELEN AND WAS ALMOST CONSTANTLY WITH MARCIA...
IT'S NO USE, HE LOVES HER... AS I THOUGHT HE LOVED ME!
SHE KNEW HER HEART-BREAK COULD BE SEEN IN HER EYES! SHE WANDERED INTO THE WOODS, HOPING THAT THE QUIET OF NATURE WOULD EASE THE ACHE!
HELLO THERE! I WAS SITTING HERE THINKING ABOUT YOU AND YOU APPEAR, LIKE A GODDESS OF THE WOODS!
OH!
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PUT YOU OUT OF MY MIND FROM THE MOMENT I FIRST SAW YOU, HELEN! I MUST SAY WHAT I'VE WANTED TO FOR DAYS... I LOVE YOU!
SHE WAS IN HIS ARMS, HER LIPS PRESSED TO HIS! BUT SHE KNEW THIS WAS NOT WHAT SHE WANTED... IT WAS RON'S LIPS HER CRYING HEART WANTED!

SHE BROKE FROM HIM AND RAN, EMOTION CHOKING HER...
HELEN!! HELEN!! WAIT!
I SAW HIM KISSING YOU! HELEN, GARRY'S NOT FOR YOU! YOU COME FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS! YOU HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON!
YOU'RE RIGHT, RON, I KNOW THAT! BUT I COULD SAY THE SAME WORDS TO YOU!
SHE LEFT HIM THERE AND HE DIDN'T ANSWER! THE NEXT MORNING...
HIYA, FOLKS! I CAME TO FETCH YOU BACK TO TOWN! YOUR CAR'S ALL FIXED AN' YOU CAN LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!
THIS WAS THE MOMENT HELEN DREADED! THE MOMENT WHEN MARCIA WOULD TURN TO RON, WAITING FOR HIM TO TELL HER TO STAY! RON SAID NOTHING FOR A SECOND... AND THEN HE TOOK MARCIA'S HAND...
I HATE TO SEE YOU GO, MARCIA! IT'S BEEN FUN HAVING YOU HERE! BUT NOW YOU MUST GO BACK TO YOUR WORLD AND I MUST STAY HERE IN MINE!
MY WORLD? YES... I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN! THEN THIS IS GOOD-BYE!
SO, RON, YOUR HEAD RULED YOUR HEART... YOU KNEW IT WOULDN'T WORK!
I DIDN'T SEND HER AWAY FOR THAT REASON! SUDDENLY I SAW MYSELF LOSING YOU BECAUSE OF THE DAZZLE OF A ROMANTIC INTERLUDE, AND THEN I KNEW HOW WRONG I'D BEEN!
IF I'D REALLY LOVED HER, I COULDN'T HAVE MADE THE DECISION I DID! I LOVE YOU HELEN, ONLY YOU, AND THERE'LL NEVER BE ANYONE ELSE!
OH, DARLING, WE HAVE ALL THE FUTURE BEFORE US! WE'LL FORGET EVERYTHING BUT OUR LOVE!
The End

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